

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 17, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 203

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieber
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Cohn)

January 28, 2003

An act to add Section 14079.6 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 203, as amended, Lieber. Medi-Cal: physician reimbursement.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Services, pursuant to which medical benefits are provided to public assistance recipients and certain other low-income persons.

Existing law requires the ~~State~~ Director of Health Services to annually review the reimbursement levels for physician and dental services under Medi-Cal, and to revise periodically the rates of reimbursement to physicians and dentists to ensure the reasonable access of Medi-Cal beneficiaries to physician and dental services.

This bill would require the department to conduct an annual study of physician reimbursement rates in medical assistance programs in ~~the 5 comparable~~ states, *other than California, with the largest number of residents*, and to submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature on the study.

This bill would *also* require the ~~State Director of Health Services~~ director to consider the results of the annual study ~~conducted~~ as a factor in the annual physician reimbursement rate review.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14079.6 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:
3 14079.6. (a) The department shall conduct an annual study of
4 physician reimbursement rates, patient access to care, and quality
5 of care provided under state medical assistance programs in *the*
6 ~~five states that are comparable to California.~~ *states, other than*
7 *California, with the largest number of residents.*
8 (b) Commencing April 1, 2004, the department shall submit
9 the results of the study conducted pursuant to subdivision (a) to the
10 appropriate committees of the Legislature no later than April 1 of
11 each year.
12 (c) The director shall consider the results of the annual study
13 conducted pursuant to subdivision (a) as a factor in the annual
14 reimbursement rate review conducted pursuant to Section 14079.

